

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended)

A surgical device forming a surgical prosthesis, designed to provide support to a physiological, mammalian organ that can be supported, comprising:

a) at least one first support component to provide support comprising a first elongated component or sling, with a first end and a second end designed to exert a supporting action on said physiological mammalian organ requiring support; said first elongated component being made at least partially of a substantially inextensible but flexible and deformable material;

b) at least one first traction component, which can be connected at least temporarily with at least one end of said first elongated support component, made of a substantially inextensible material enabling to pull on the first elongated support component and maintain same in place in a position providing said support;

c) at least one first anchoring system, designed to cooperate with at least said first traction component, to

fix said first elongated support component and keep same in the correct position;

said first anchoring system comprising a cage-forming device with an upper end and a lower end, the upper end being fitted with a sliding component which enables to pull on the traction component which acts on the elongated support component, to effect through said pulling the translation of one end of the elongated support component to provide support to said organ and keep said organ in support position,

wherein the upper ~~part~~ end and the lower ~~part~~ end of the cage-forming device of the anchoring system are joined to one another by a series of lateral bridging arms made of a substantially inextensible but flexible and deformable material being long enough to induce a kinking at the vicinity of their mid-point by pulling on the traction component to allow a so-called umbrella-type positioning with a broad surface of fixation or anchoring of the anchoring system.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein the lower end of the anchoring system is configured to be inserted on or

attached to a mammalian substrate which is relatively resistant to tearing.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein the sliding component of the anchoring system is configured to act as a pulley, around which the traction component can slide or translate to pull on the elongated support component.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein the traction component is in the form of a traction wire, having a first end and a second end, comprising a ring or loop at one of said first end and of said second end; the other of said first end and of said second end of the wire, named free end, cooperating with said ring or loop to create a lasso-like loop device to facilitate pulling on the elongated sling.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein a single anchoring system is provided designed to simultaneously pull both ends of the elongated support element.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein the first anchoring system joined to a first end of the elongated support component is configured to allow fixation at a predetermined, set position, while the second end of the elongated support component is joined to a second anchoring system, thereby allowing displacement of the second end of the elongated support component in order to exert a traction force on the mammalian organ as required.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein the cage-forming device comprises at its upper end a hollow, tubular component having a first end which is designed to be joined to or continuous with said upper end of the cage and, at the same time, to form the sliding component by presenting a surface which forms the pulley around which the traction wire is designed to slide.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 25, wherein said end of the tubular component has a hole which is substantially coaxial with the hollow tubular component.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein the lower part of at least the first anchoring system or of each anchoring system comprises an annular part defining a central hole through which can be passed the first traction component or each traction component.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 27, wherein said central hole is designed to accommodate the needle of a trocar.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein the first elongated support component is in the shape of a strip having a main part which is located between its ends consisting essentially of a fabric or meshwork created from two or more wires made of a substantially inextensible but flexible material.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 29, wherein the material of the wires comprising the fabric of the strip is an organic polymer which is compatible with implantation in mammalian tissue.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 30, wherein the organic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene and nylon.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented)

The device of claim 17, wherein the second inextensible traction component includes or is constituted of an inextensible traction wire made of an inextensible organic material which is compatible with long-term implantation in mammalian tissue.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented)

Traction component of the surgical device forming a surgical prosthesis as defined in claim 17, wherein said traction component is made of a substantially filiform inextensible material, and is connectable at least temporarily with at least one end of the first elongated

sling to allow the pulling of said elongated sling and keep same in a position providing said support.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented)

Fixation or anchoring system of the surgical device forming a surgical prosthesis as defined in claim 17, wherein said anchoring system comprises a cage-forming device with an upper end and a lower end, the upper end being fitted with a sliding component for pulling on the traction component which acts on the elongated sling, in order to effect the translation of one end of the elongated sling in order to provide support to said organ or keep said organ in position.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented)

Fixation and anchoring kit comprising at least one surgical device forming a surgical prosthesis as defined in claim 17, together with an introducer instrument, in the form of a penetrating trocar, with a protective sheath for the fixation or anchoring system mounted in a compact way or folded back between the penetrating trocar and the sheath, and joined to said sheath at least in the direction of penetration, said sheath comprising a system to prevent

retrocession of the fixation system in place between the trocar and the sheath.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended)

A method to provide support for an a physiological mammalian organ which requires support, comprising:

a) performing local anesthesia administered close to the organ requiring support;

b) performing incision, and dissection of the tissue opposite and on either side of said physiological mammalian organ requiring support to create an opening;

c) inserting through said opening at least one first elongated support component or sling ~~as defined in claim 17,~~ with a first end and a second end designed to exert a supporting action on said physiological mammalian organ requiring support; said first elongated component being made at least partially of a substantially inextensible but flexible and deformable material; and then an introducer penetrating trocar instrument having a protective sheath and containing at least a first anchoring system, ~~cooperating~~ designed to cooperate with at least one traction component, ~~both as defined in claim 17,~~ into the opening created by said incision and dissection of the tissues on one side and behind the organ requiring support,



and after reaching said mammalian substrate which is relatively resistant to tearing, withdrawal of the protective sheath;

d) withdrawing the penetrating trocar;

e) simultaneous pulling on both ends of the filiform traction component to install the anchoring system in the correct place and open or deploy it;

f) repeating preceding steps c), d) and e) on the other side of the organ in order to introduce a second anchoring system, preferably identical to the first;

g) passing one end of the traction component of the first anchoring system in a means of joining in one first end of the first elongated sling then into the sliding component of the other end of the filiform traction component, to create a lasso-like loop, and a first pulling movement on the end or free part of the traction component for preliminary positioning;

h) repeating the same procedure as in the preceding steps for the second anchoring system on the other side of the organ requiring support, thereby preliminarily positioning the elongated sling near the organ in question;

i) simultaneous pulling on both ends or free parts respectively of the first traction component and of the second traction component until there is tension being

exerted on the first elongated sling in the correct position in contact with said organ to provide the desired support for said organ;

j) joining of the free ends respectively of the first filiform component and the end of the second filiform component in the appropriate position, this joining of said end being carried out at such a position that the organ being supported is not compromised in any way;

k) closing closure of the incision with a suitable surgical closing means ~~of surgical closure~~;

wherein the first anchoring system is designed to fix said first elongated support component and keep same in the correct position;

said first anchoring system comprises a cage-forming device with an upper end and a lower end, the upper end being fitted with a sliding component, which enables to pull on the traction component, which acts on the elongated support component, to effect through said pulling the translation of one end of the elongated support component to provide support to said organ and keep said organ in support position;

wherein said traction component can be connected at least temporarily with at least one end of said first elongated support component and is made of a substantially

inextensible material enabling to pull on the first elongated support component and maintain same in the place in a position providing said support;

wherein the upper end part and the lower end part of the cage-forming device of the anchoring system are joined to one another by a series of lateral bridging arms made of a substantially inextensible but flexible and deformable material, said arms being long enough to induce a kinking at the vicinity of their mid-point by pulling on the traction component to allow a so-called umbrella-type positioning with a broad surface of fixation or anchoring of the anchoring system.

Claim 37 (Cancelled)

Claim 38 (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 36, which is performed to correct incontinence in female mammals.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 36, wherein the organ to be supported is the urethra.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented)

The method of claim 36, wherein at least one anchoring system is inserted on tissue of the wall of the pelvic cavity.